

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. KARENINA
RELUCIO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Karenina Relucio as she retires from her position as public health officer and deputy director at the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency.

Dr. Relucio completed her medical training at Rush Medical College in 1995, residency training in Internal Medicine at Tufts—New England Medical Center in 1998 and Infectious Diseases fellowship training at Stanford in 2003. She is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Before coming to Napa County, she was a medical director of public health clinics, assistant health officer and chief of infectious diseases for the San Mateo County Health System from 2006 to 2015 and a clinical instructor at Stanford University Medical Center from 2003 to 2006.

In 2015, Dr. Relucio joined the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency. She runs a division spanning communicable disease control and prevention, chronic disease prevention, emergency preparedness and programs to serve families and children. Dr. Relucio is president of the Health Officers Association of California, past president of California Conference of Local Health Officers, and is on the Board of Directors for the Napa/Solano County Medical Society. Dr. Relucio served as co-chair of the Napa Opioid Safety Coalition and currently participates in multiple local and state collaborations to improve health. She served as a public health leader when she led the COVID-19 pandemic response in Napa County.

Dr. Relucio's exceptional career has earned her awards and commendations such as the Napa Solano Medical Society Physician of the Year in February 2020, the California Legislative Women's Caucus Woman of the Year in March 2021 and Napa Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in March 2022.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Dr. Karenina Relucio has served our state through her exceptional career in public health. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her today.

RICHLAND READINESS CENTER

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the grand opening of the Washington National Guard's Richland Readiness Center, the first National Guard facility in Benton County since 1947.

This new, state-of-the-art facility will give our citizen-soldiers a new place to serve and stay during their training by providing ample training, storage, classroom, common areas, and office space for a company of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment. The grounds also include classrooms and conference rooms available to the public and will serve WSU Tri-Cities, CBC, HAMMER, Hanford Patrol, local law enforcement groups, and dozens of other community organizations. This will also become the first Washington National Guard facility that is on track to meet a LEED Gold rating for environmental considerations and green cost saving measures.

It is an honor for our district to be home to the men and women who serve our country, and I extend my congratulations to the Washington National Guard for its leadership and many years of service to our Central Washington communities.

MAYOR STEVE AUSTIN

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mayor Steve Austin of Henderson, Kentucky, who is retiring at the end of the year after serving three terms.

Mayor Austin is a lifelong resident of Henderson. He is a graduate of Holy Name High School and Henderson Community College before he continued his education at Evansville College and at Harvard School of Business regional campus sessions.

Before being elected Mayor, he worked at Henderson's local newspaper, "The Gleaner," for more than four decades, covering a wide range of topics before serving as publisher for 22 years.

I have had the privilege of getting to know Mayor Austin well over the years. While his time as Mayor may be coming to an end, I am confident his dedication and service to Henderson will continue for many years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
PATRICK ONEAL HARDY**

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Patrick "Hawk" Hardy and express my sincere gratitude for his service to our Nation.

Although he is now a resident of Kountze, Texas, Patrick was born in Port Arthur, Texas, on June 14, 1949. Patrick, known by many as "Hawk," and I first met when we were children. In our youth, we made wonderful memories playing football together.

After graduating from French High School, in Beaumont, Texas, in 1968, Hawk enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He bravely served from 1968 to 1970, earning the rank of sergeant. Former Secretary of the Navy, William K. Jones, stated the following citation while awarding Hawk with the Navy Commendation Medal:

For meritorious service, while serving with the Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in connection with the combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from 20 September 1969 to 11 September 1970. Throughout this period, Sergeant Hardy performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. Following initial assignment to Company H, he was reassigned as Team Leader of the Marine Liaison Team with the Fifth Battalion, Republic of Korea Marine Corps. Participating in several major combat operations, he repeatedly distinguished himself by his courage and composure under fire. Particularly noteworthy were Sergeant Hardy's achievements on 21 July 1970 as he skillfully coordinated the maneuver of United States Marines and Korean Marines, thereby enabling them to close on an enemy force attempting to cross the Vinh Dien River and kill ten enemy soldiers. Displaying exceptional initiative and resourcefulness, he organized and supervised a training program for personnel in his section, which increased their individual proficiency and enhanced the combat effectiveness of his unit. As a result of his diligent and resourceful efforts throughout his tour in the Republic of Vietnam, the operational effectiveness of his unit was greatly enhanced. By his initiative, superb professionalism, and loyal devotion to duty, Sergeant Hardy earned the respect of all who served with him and upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

Hawk attended Lamar University in Beaumont, graduating with an associate degree in law enforcement and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He worked as a deputy sheriff in Harris County from 1971 to 1981. In May of 1981, he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence. Hawk served as a criminal investigator and First Assistant Prosecutor in Hardin, Jasper, and Tyler counties. He was a county attorney for Tyler County in 1984 and later served as the Tyler County District Attorney from 1985 to 1990. Hawk also served as a criminal investigator in Kauffman County and was appointed as the Assistant Prosecutor.

Hawk has been a student of taekwondo since the age of 16. However, in the 1970s, he also made a name for himself on the karate circuit, winning numerous titles and awards. He reached professional status after claiming the 1975 U.S. Karate Championship title. From 2000 to 2008, he competed extensively in Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournaments worldwide, winning 21 gold medals, four silver medals, and seven bronze medals. In 2004, he was the legendary Royce Gracie's first Black Belt, which Hawk stated was his proudest moment in martial arts. Hawk still holds a Black Belt in taekwondo, tang soo do, and Gracie jiu-jitsu, as well as a 5th degree in Shotokan.

Madam Speaker, it is a great pleasure to honor my friend Patrick "Hawk" Hardy. His

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